CLAIMS:

1. The use of a compound selected from:

(a) a VR2 polypeptide;

(b) a compound which modulates the activity of a VR2 polypeptide;

(c) a polynucleotide encoding a VR2 polypeptide; or

(d) an antisense polynucleotide to a polynucleotide encoding a VR2 polypeptide,

for the manufacture of a medicament for treating anxiety and/or depression and/or circadian rhythm disorders.

2. The use according to Claim 1 wherein said anxiety is a disorder selected from panic disorder with or without agoraphobia, agoraphobia without history of panic disorder, specific phobias, social phobias and obsessive-compulsive disorders.

3. The use according to Claim 1 wherein said anxiety is a disorder selected from anxiety disorders induced by alcohol, amphetamines, caffeine, cannabis, cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants, phencyclidine, sedatives, hypnotics, anxiolytics and other substances, and adjustment disorders with anxiety.

4. The use according to Claim 1 wherein said depression is a disorder selected from single or recurrent major depressive episodes, with or without pyschotic features, catatonic features, melancholic features, atypical features or postpartum onset and, in the case of recurrent episodes, with or without interepisode recovery and with or without seasonal pattern.

5. The use according to Claim 1 wherein said depression is a disorder selected from dysthymic disorder with early or late onset and

with or without atypical features; dementia of the Alzheimer's type, with early or late onset, with depressed mood; vascular dementia with depressed mood; mood disorders induced by alcohol, amphetamines, cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants, opioids, phencyclidine, sedatives, hypnotics, anxiolytics and other substances; schizoaffective disorder of the depressed type; and adjustment disorder with depressed mood.

6. The use according to Claim 1 wherein said depression is the result of a general medical condition selected from myocardial infarction, diabetes, miscarriage and abortion.

7. The use according to Claim 1 wherein said medicament enhances or improves sleep quality and/or prevents and/or treats sleep disorders and sleep disturbances.

8. The use according to Claim 7 wherein said enhancement or improvement of sleep quality is effected by increasing sleep efficiency and augmenting sleep maintenance.

9. The use according to Claim 1 wherein the circadian rhythm disorder is selected from the group consisting of: time-zone change (jet-lag) syndrome, shift-work sleep disorder, delayed sleep-phase syndrome, advanced sleep-phase syndrome, and non-24-hour sleep-wake disorder.

10. The use according to Claim 1 wherein said circadian rhythm disorder is selected from Disorders of Initiating and Maintaining Sleep (insomnias) ("DIMS"), childhood onset DIMS, nocturnal myoclonus and restless legs and non specific REM disturbances as seen in ageing.

11. The use of a compound selected from:

(a) a VR2 polypeptide;

(b) a compound which modulates the activity of a VR2 polypeptide;

(c) a polynucleotide encoding a VR2 polypeptide; or

(d) an antisense polynucleotide to a polynucleotide encoding a VR2 polypeptide,

for the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing pre-term labour, erectile dysfunction, hypertension and/or eclampsia, and associated disorders or schizophrenia.

12. The use according to Claim 11 for treating or preventing pre-term labour, erectile dysfunction, hypertension and/or eclampsia and associated disorders.

13. The use according to Claim 11 for inducing myometrial relaxation, preventing pre-term labour, stopping labour, and/or treating or preventing dysmenorrhea.

14. The use according to Claim 11 for the treatment or prevention of erectile dysfunction and/or impotence.

15. The use according to Claim 11 for the treatment or prevention of hypertension and/or congestive heart failure, inducing diuresis, and/or inhibiting platelet agglutination.

16. The use according to Claim 11 for the treatment or prevention of pre-eclampsia and/or eclampsia.

17. The use according to any one of Claims 1 to 16 wherein the compound which modulates the activity of a VR2 polypeptide is an antagonist.

18. The use according to any one of Claims 1 to 16 wherein the compound is a VR2 polypeptide which comprises a polypeptide having at least 95% identity to the VR2 polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2.

19. The use according to Claim 18 wherein the compound is the VR2 polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2.

20. The use according to any one of Claims 1 to 16 wherein the compound comprises a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having at least 95% identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

21. The use according to Claim 20 wherein the polynucleotide comprises a polynucleotide having at least 95% identity with the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1.

22. The use according to Claim 20 or Claim 21 wherein the polynucleotide has the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

23. A method for the treatment of anxiety and/or depression and/or circadian rhythm disorders which comprises administration of an effective amount of a compound selected from:

(a) a VR2 polypeptide;
(b) a compound which modulates the activity of a VR2 polypeptide;
(c) a polynucleotide encoding a VR2 polypeptide; or
(d) an antisense polynucleotide to a polynucleotide encoding a VR2 polypeptide,

to a patient in need of such treatment.

24. A method of Claim 23 wherein said anxiety is a disorder selected from panic disorder with or without agoraphobia,

agoraphobia without history of panic disorder, specific phobias, social phobias and obsessive-compulsive disorders.

25. A method of Claim 23 wherein said anxiety is a disorder selected from anxiety disorders induced by alcohol, amphetamines, caffeine, cannabis, cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants, phencyclidine, sedatives, hypnotics, anxiolytics and other substances, and adjustment disorders with anxiety.

26. A method of Claim 23 wherein said depression is a disorder selected from single or recurrent major depressive episodes, with or without pyschotic features, catatonic features, melancholic features, atypical features or postpartum onset and, in the case of recurrent episodes, with or without interepisode recovery and with or without seasonal pattern.

27. A method of Claim 23 wherein said depression is a disorder selected from dysthymic disorder with early or late onset and with or without atypical features; dementia of the Alzheimer's type, with early or late onset, with depressed mood; vascular dementia with depressed mood; mood disorders induced by alcohol, amphetamines, cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants, opioids, phencyclidine, sedatives, hypnotics, anxiolytics and other substances; schizoaffective disorder of the depressed type; and adjustment disorder with depressed mood.

28. A method of Claim 23 wherein said depression is the result of a general medical condition selected from myocardial infarction, diabetes, miscarriage and abortion.

29. A method of Claim 23 for achieving a circadian rhythm phase-shifting effect in a mammal.

30. A method of Claim 23 for resetting the internal circadian clock in a mammal.

31. A method of Claim 23 for shortening the time of reintrainment of circadian rhythms in a mammal.

32. A method of Claim 23 for enhancing or improving sleep quality and/or preventing and/or treating sleep disorders and sleep disturbances in a mammal.

33. A method of Claim 23 for increasing sleep efficiency and augmenting sleep maintenance in a mammal.

34. A method of Claim 23 for the prevention or treatment of a circadian rhythm disorder in a mammal, which disorder is selected from the group consisting of: time-zone change (jet-lag) syndrome, shift-work sleep disorder, delayed sleep-phase syndrome, advanced sleep-phase syndrome, and non-24-hour sleep-wake disorder.

35. A method of Claim 23 for the prevention or treatment of a circadian rhythm disorder in a mammal, which disorder is selected from the group consisting of Disorders of Initiating and Maintaining Sleep (insomnias) ("DIMS"), childhood onset DIMS, nocturnal myoclonus and restless legs and non specific REM disturbances as seen in ageing.

36. A method for the treatment of pre-term labour, erectile dysfunction, hypertension and/or eclampsia, and associated disorders or schizophrenia which comprises administration of an effective amount of a compound selected from:

(a) a VR2 polypeptide;

(b) a compound which modulates the activity of a VR2 polypeptide;

(c) a polynucleotide encoding a VR2 polypeptide; or

(d) an antisense polynucleotide to a polynucleotide encoding a VR2 polypeptide,

to a patient in need of such treatment.

37. A method of Claim 36 for the treatment of pre-term labour, erectile dysfunction, hypertension and/or eclampsia, and associated disorders.

38. A method of Claim 36 inducing myometrial relaxation, preventing pre-term labour, stopping labour, and/or treating or preventing dysmenorrhea.

39. A method of Claim 36 for the treatment or prevention of erectile dysfunction and/or impotence.

40. A method of Claim 36 for the treatment or prevention of hypertension and/or congestive heart failure, inducing diuresis, and/or inhibiting platelet agglutination.

41. A method of Claim 36 for the treatment or prevention of pre-eclampsia and/or eclampsia.

42. A method of Claim 36 wherein the compound which modulates the activity of a VR2 polypeptide is an antagonist.

43. A method of Claim 23 or 36 wherein the compound which modulates the activity of a VR2 polypeptide is an antagonist.

44. A method of Claim 23 or 36 wherein the compound is a VR2 polypeptide which comprises a polypeptide having at least 95% identity to the VR2 polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2.

45. A method of Claim 44 wherein the compound is the VR2 polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2.

46. A method of Claim 23 or 36 wherein the compound comprises a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having at least 95% identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

47. A method of Claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide comprises a polynucleotide having at least 95% identity with the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1.

48. A method of Claim 46 or Claim 47 wherein the polynucleotide has the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.